

PUBLIC MEETING LOG UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

Meeting Between: CPSC staff members and various members of the public interested in upholstered furniture flammability

Date of Meeting: March 4-5, 1996

Site of Meeting: CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, MD, and
CPSC Engineering Laboratory, Gaithersburg, MD

Meeting Topic: CPSC full scale furniture testing program and small scale protocol development for upholstered furniture small open flame hazards

Log Entry By: Dale R. Ray, EC *DR*
CPSC Project Mgr., Upholstered Furniture

Participants: see attached participant list

Summary:

The purpose of this meeting was twofold: a) to bring interested groups up to date on CPSC's small open flame testing and standards development activities on upholstered furniture; and b) to exchange technical data and solicit comments and suggestions on a draft small scale component test protocol. CPSC staff presented an overview of its plans and recent activities, the results of recent full scale open flame testing, a working draft small scale protocol and prototype test fixture, and plans for an interlaboratory study to establish the precision of the draft protocol.

The meeting was convened in the afternoon of March 4, 1996. Dale Ray, CPSC Project Manager, gave an general overview report on the status of CPSC's activities, including the ongoing fire investigation study, the survey of manufacturers, the various technical efforts on small open flame hazards, and the ongoing evaluation of cigarette ignition resistance of furniture. A number of general policy issues were raised by the attendees, especially regarding the use of hazard data to help direct the testing and technical development work.

Linda Fansler, CPSC Engineering Laboratory Division, presented a report on the first phase of CPSC's testing. This involved full scale, small open flame chair testing using a CPSC-developed research test protocol. Copies of the full scale report and photos of the tested chairs were distributed. Tests


of 27 chairs, i.e., 3 styles built to 3 specifications (UFAC, California, U.K.) by 3 manufacturers, were conducted. Tested ignition locations included dust covers, skirts (if so equipped) and seating areas (seat/back/side crevices). Component and composite tests were also conducted using existing small scale test methods. Most of the test chairs ignited, i.e., they sustained combustion after the flame source was removed from the impingement location. In seating area location tests, Ufac and California chairs performed similarly; the fire blocking interliners of the U.K. chairs kept their filling materials from becoming involved in fire. These test results were accepted with little discussion.

Rikki Khanna, CPSC Mechanical Engineering Division, presented a review of a CPSC-developed draft small scale test protocol for upholstered furniture components. Copies of this draft protocol were distributed. The draft protocol includes tests for dust covers, skirts and seating areas, to evaluate the small open flame ignition performance of components of currently manufactured furniture. The protocol is based in part on existing California and British test methods. These tests may form the basis of a possible future industry or CPSC standard. There was substantial discussion on a number of points pertaining to the draft protocol, including the technical rationale for various provisions, including flame source specifications, time of flame impingement, and definitions of ignition that may be suitable as acceptance criteria. Several suggestions were made, many of which are being incorporated into the protocol.

The meeting continued on March 5 at the CPSC Engineering Laboratory in Gaithersburg, MD. Two sessions were held: one to view and discuss a prototype test fixture developed by CPSC, and the other to discuss plans for an interlaboratory study to establish the precision of the test protocol. Mark Eilbert, CPSC Engineering Laboratory Division (the principal designer and builder of the prototype test fixture), presented and demonstrated the apparatus using some materials from actual chairs tested in the full scale test program. A number of suggestions for improving the fixture were made, many of which are being incorporated into the prototype.

John Murphy, CPSC Engineering Laboratory Division, presented plans for an interlaboratory study to establish the repeatability and reproducibility of the small scale test protocol. In this study, several independent laboratories would conduct tests in accordance with the protocol, and the comparative results would be analyzed to evaluate the precision of the test. CPSC staff asked that interested organizations contact either Mr. Murphy or Mr. Ray to signify interest in participating in the study. It was noted that the number of participating laboratories may be limited by financial and scheduling considerations. The CPSC staff expects to conduct the study during the summer of 1996.

The CPSC staff requested additional comments and suggestions on the draft small scale protocol, test fixture and interlaboratory plan by the end of March. Mr. Ray concluded the meeting by discussing the administrative procedures involved in rulemaking.



UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE PUBLIC MEETING
MARCH 4-5, 1996

ATTENDANCE LIST

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Tom Ohlemiller	Nat'l Inst. of Stds & Technology	301-975-6481
Pat Martin	Sleep Products Safety Council	703-683-8371
Harrison Murphy	Ventex	703-709-7211
Edward Clougherty	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	508-831-5945
Rusell Kidder	Fire Retardant Chemical Ass'n	717-291-5616
Barry Jacobs	Akzo Nobel Chemicals	704-845-0585
Joe Ziolkowski	American Furniture Mfrs Ass'n	901-884-5000
Richard Driscoll	Business & Institutional Furniture Mfr's Ass'n	616-285-3963
Hugh Talley	AFMA Consultant	423-587-3002
Archie Tewarson	Factory Mutual	617-255-4940
Stephen Lewandowski	Bayer Corp	412-777-4788
Kurt Reimann	BASF Corp	313-246-6344
Mary Martha McNamara	Law Office	703-971-8008
Sheila Millar	Keller & Heckman/SPI	202-434-4143
Fran Lichtenberg	Society of Plastics Industry	212-351-5424
John Bunch	Liggett Group	919-683-8959
Joe Wanna	Brown & Williamson	na
Rob Walker	Tobacco Institute	202-457-4800
Frank McGarry	Nat'l Ass'n of State Fire Marshals Consultant	518-482-1801
Pete Sparber	Nat'l Ass'n of State Fire Marshals	202-737-1226
Karen Suhr	Nat'l Ass'n of State Fire Marshals	202-737-1226
Catherine Morin	Albright & Wilson	410-810-1877
Joseph Vandermaas	Hoechst Celanese	704-554-3497
Russ Abolt	Int'l Sleep Products Ass'n	703-683-8371
Robert Barker	American Fiber Mfrs Ass'n	202-296-6508
Joe Gerard	American Furniture Mfrs Ass'n	202-466-7362
Russ Batson	American Furniture Mfrs Ass'n	202-466-7362
Phil Wakelyn	Nat'l Cotton Council	202-745-7805
Dallas Pinion	Brown & Williamson	804-469-3841
Kay Villa	American Textile Mfrs Ass'n	202-862-0518
John Krasny	Consultant/ex-NIST	301-564-0432
John Michener	Milliken	864-574-9804
Paul Weinle	Collins & Aikman	704-548-2046
Brad Miller	Business & Institutional Furniture Mfrs Ass'n	616-285-3963

CPSC Upholstered Furniture Public Meeting--Attendance (cont'd)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Phone</u>
John Whalen	Reporter--BNA	202-452-4413
Sam Cristy	Reporter--PSL	703-247-3407
Dale Ray	CPSC Project Mgr	301-504-0962
Andy Ulsamer	CPSC Laboratory	301-413-0150
John Murphy	CPSC Laboratory	301-413-0150
Linda Fansler	CPSC Laboratory	301-413-0153
Frank Vitaliti	CPSC Laboratory	301-413-0178
Mark Eilbert	CPSC Laboratory	301-413-0182
James Hoebel	CPSC Engineering	301-504-0494
Rikki Khanna	CPSC Engineering	301-504-0494
Chuck Smith	CPSC Economics	301-504-0962
Carolyn Meiers	CPSC Human Factors	301-504-0468
Kim Long	CPSC Epidemiology	301-504-0470
Pat Fairall	CPSC Compliance	301-504-0400